

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6-7, 20-22, 24, 45, 48, 50, 52-53, 58-59, 62, 72-73, 75, and 78 and cancel claims 2-3, 5, 8-19, 23, 25-44, 46-47, 49, 51, 54-57, 60-61, 65-69, 74, 76-77, and 79-82 without prejudice, as shown in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Claims 2-3, 5, 8-19, 23, 25-44, 46-47, 49, 51, 54-57, 60-61, 65-69, 74, 76-77, and 79-82 are canceled without prejudice to their pursuit in an appropriate continuation or divisional application. Claims 1, 4, 6-7, 20-22, 24, 45, 48, 50, 52-53, 58-59, 62-64, 70-73, 75, and 78 are currently in the application.

Listing of claims:

1 (currently amended). ~~[[A]] An isolated partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by of SEQ ID NO: 1, comprising (1) amino acid residues 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1 or (2) amino acid residues 124 (Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.~~

2. – 3. (canceled)

4 (currently amended). ~~[[A]] The partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim [[3]] 1, comprising consisting of amino acid residues 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1.~~

5. (canceled)

6 (currently amended). ~~[[A]] The partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim [[3]] 1, comprising consisting of amino acid residues 124 (Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1.~~

7 (currently amended). An amide of the partial peptide ~~of the polypeptide~~ according to claim 1, or a salt thereof.

8. – 19. (canceled)

20 (currently amended). A composition comprising ~~the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim~~ [[3]] 1.

21 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim~~ [[3]] 1.

22 (currently amended). A method for screening a compound that ~~accelerates~~ promotes or inhibits the activity of ~~the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim~~ [[3]] 1, which comprises: using the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or

(i) contacting a protein containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its amide or ester or a salt thereof with the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim [[3]] 1, and measuring the activity of the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1;

(ii) contacting a protein containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its amide or ester or a salt thereof and a test compound with the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, and measuring the activity of the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1; and

(iii) comparing the activity of case (i) with the activity of case (ii).

23. (canceled)

24 (currently amended). A kit for screening a compound that ~~accelerates~~ promotes or inhibits the activity of the ~~polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim [[3]] 1, comprising the polypeptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim 1, or~~ (a) the partial peptide or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, according to claim [[3]] 1 and (b) a protein containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its amide or ester or a salt thereof.

25. – 44. (canceled)

45 (currently amended). A prolactin secretion ~~regulatory agent~~ stimulant comprising an isolated partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by of SEQ ID NO: 1, comprising (1) amino acid residues 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1 or (2) amino acid residues 124 (Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

46. – 47. (canceled)

48 (currently amended). The prolactin secretion ~~regulatory agent~~ stimulant according to claim ~~[[47]] 45~~, comprising ~~[[a]] an isolated~~ partial peptide composed of amino acid residues 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

49. (canceled)

50 (currently amended). The prolactin secretion ~~regulatory agent~~ stimulant according to claim ~~[[47]] 45~~, comprising ~~[[a]] an isolated~~ partial peptide composed of amino acid residues 124 (Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

51. (canceled)

52 (currently amended). The prolactin secretion ~~regulatory agent~~ stimulant according to claim ~~[[47]]~~ 45, comprising an amide of ~~[[a]]~~ an isolated partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence ~~represented by~~ of SEQ ID NO: 1, comprising (1) amino acid residues 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1 or (2) amino acid residues 124 (Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a salt thereof.

53 (currently amended). The prolactin secretion ~~regulatory agent~~ stimulant according to claim 52, comprising ~~[[a]]~~ an isolated partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, comprising (1) amino acid residues 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1 or (2) amino acid residues 124 (Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, the C-terminal carboxyl of which is amidated, or a salt thereof.

54. – 57. (canceled)

58 (currently amended). The prolactin secretion ~~regulatory agent~~ stimulant according to claim 45 ~~[[or 47]]~~, which is a galactosis stimulant for livestock mammal.

59 (currently amended). The prolactin secretion ~~regulatory agent~~ stimulant according to claim 45 ~~[[or 47]]~~, which is a test agent for prolactin secretion function.

60. – 61. (canceled)

62 (currently amended). (1) ~~[[A]]~~ An isolated peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 81(Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt

thereof, (2) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 101(Ser) to 112 (Ser) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (3) ~~a~~ or (2) an isolated peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 124(Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (4) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 56 (Ser) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (5) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 14, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (6) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 101 (Ser) to 112 (Leu) of SEQ ID NO: 14, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (7) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 58 (Ser) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 14, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (8) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 83 (Val) to 94 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 33, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (9) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 118 (Phe) to 125 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 33, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, (10) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 58 (Ser) to 94 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 33, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (11) a peptide containing an amino acid sequence composed of 58 (Ser) to 94 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 50, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

63 (original). An amide of the peptide according to claim 62, or a salt thereof.

64 (original). The peptide according to claim 62 wherein the C-terminal carboxyl is amidated, its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

65. – 69. (canceled)

70 (original). An agent comprising the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

71 (original). A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof.

72 (currently amended). The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 71, which is a prolactin secretion ~~regulatory agent~~ stimulant.

73 (currently amended). A method of screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which comprises:

(i) using contacting a protein containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its amide or ester or a salt thereof with the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, and measuring the activity of the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof;

(ii) contacting a protein containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its amide or ester or a salt thereof and a test compound with the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, and measuring the activity of the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof; and

(iii) comparing the activity in case (i) with the activity in case (ii).

74. (canceled)

75 (currently amended). A kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, which comprises ~~using (a)~~ the peptide according to claim 62, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof and (b) a protein containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 37 or a salt thereof, or its amide or ester or a salt thereof.

76. – 77. (canceled)

78 (currently amended). A method of regulating the secretion of prolactin, which comprises administering to a mammal ~~(i) a polypeptide containing the same or substantially~~

~~the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its~~
~~amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or (ii) a partial peptide of a polypeptide containing the same~~
~~or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by of~~
SEQ ID NO: 1, comprising (1) amino acid residues 81 (Met) to 92 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1
or (2) amino acid residues 124 (Val) to 131 (Phe) of SEQ ID NO: 1, its amide or ester, or a
salt thereof.

79. – 82. (canceled)